

LEEDS & York

Royal Connections

Leeds and York are two unique cities each steeped in history and surrounded by landscapes of epic proportions in the Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors National Park. Together they form the perfect package, and it's only a 25-minute train journey between them or a 40-minute drive. From the medieval streets and ancient walls of York to the grand Victorian arcades and romantic abbey ruins in Leeds, each city retains distinct layers of its history, alongside vibrant food and drink scenes, independent shopping and exceptional accommodation.

The two cities are perfectly placed half-way between London and Edinburgh, with the glorious Yorkshire Dales, North York Moors National Park and Wolds right on their doorsteps.



CREATE SEAMLESS GROUP TRAVEL EXPERIENCES ACROSS LEEDS AND YORK.

Our team offers expert advice, tailored itineraries, and dedicated support. Get in touch to start planning.

Email: info@visitleeds.co.uk

Email: trade@visityork.org

LEEDS

Leeds is a city at the heart of the action. Diverse and creative, it's packed full of cultural gems and stunning architecture. With a compact and walkable city-centre, Leeds has striking street art and an unrivalled music scene – it's a city that loves to entertain.

A renowned retail destination, where stunning Victorian arcades set the backdrop for an unrivalled shopping experience. The Royal Armouries, sister museum to the Tower of London has world-class exhibitions of arms and armour and Leeds Art Gallery has one of the most valued collections of British contemporary art in the UK. The majestic Kirkstall Abbey is one of the best-preserved Cistercian Abbeys in the country and Harewood House located just outside of the city, is one of the Treasure Houses of England and a perfect day-trip.



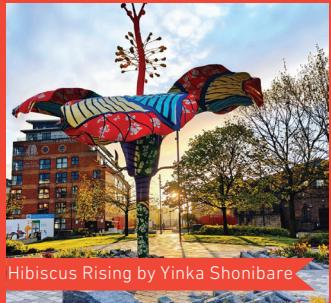
St Mary's Abbey, Museum Gardens, York



National Railway Museum c*



York Castle Museum c ACR



Hibiscus Rising by Yinka Shonibare



Leeds Dock, (home of the Royal Armouries)

York

York is a vibrant festival city with Roman roots and a Viking past, offering an adventure for everyone. One of Britain's historic cities, this unique 2000-year-old walled city has more attractions per square mile than any other city in the UK. Boasting the National Railway Museum, one of the world's most magnificent cathedrals, York Minster, and the world-famous JORVIK Viking Centre, you'll find world-class museums, galleries and walking tours uncovering hidden secrets all within easy distance. Crowned Britain's home of chocolate and the most haunted city in Europe, York is abundant with culture and character, with a varied calendar of events and festivals year-round. Plus, the city's thriving creative and arts community has earned an esteemed UNESCO City of Media Arts status.

*The Board of Trustees of the Science Museum

WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ROYALTY

The cities of Leeds and York are a must-visit for anyone wishing to walk in the footsteps of British royalty. Harewood House in Leeds and Castle Howard north of York are both ranked amongst the finest stately homes in the country. Both houses date back to the eighteenth century and, in their long illustrious histories, have hosted many Kings and Queens, including Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II. More recently, each house continues to inspire as filming locations for historical shows and films including Victoria, Downton Abbey and Bridgerton to name a few.



Constantine the Great at York Minster



Castle Howard

CASTLE HOWARD

One of Britain's finest stately homes, situated just outside York in the Howardian Hills. Built over 300 years ago by Sir John Vanbrugh, today it remains home to the Howard family. Discover the House at your own pace, admiring its awe-inspiring architecture and interiors, with something to capture everyone's imagination. Enjoy stunning scenery all year, exploring almost 1,000 acres of Grade 1 listed parkland and gardens. Spend the day in a monumental landscape studded with statues, temples, lakes and fountains and admire sweeping countryside views. Meander along woodland paths and in the tranquil walled garden.

Insider Tip

Castle Howard is just a 30-minute drive from York city centre. Parking is free (there are occasions where parking charges are in place for certain events). A direct bus service, Route 81, runs from York to Castle Howard. House, Garden and Travel inclusive tickets are available on selected dates from April to October, with collection from York City Centre - The comfortable Mountain Goat Tours minibus leaves York twice daily.



Harewood House, State Bedroom

HAREWOOD HOUSE

Harewood House has been a favourite of the Royal Family for centuries, since a young Princess Victoria first visited in 1835 shortly before her coronation. Princess Mary lived at Harewood House from 1935 until her death in 1965, making it an official Royal household. Princess Mary, affectionately known as 'The Yorkshire Princess' was the aunt of Queen Elizabeth II who regularly visited. Explore its breath-taking Lancelot "Capability" Brown landscape and acres of formal gardens, or take in the splendour of the State Rooms filled with original Chippendale furniture. For the truly quintessential British experience, opt for an Afternoon Tea taken in the elegant Billiard Room overlooking the manicured gardens.

Insider Tip

Harewood House is just a 25-minute drive from Leeds city centre. The house is open daily from April to October, from 10.30am to 4pm and the grounds from 10am to 6pm. It closes from mid-October to mid-November, then re-opens for the Christmas Season. From January to March the house and grounds are open Friday to Sunday. A minimum visit of three hours is recommended for exploring the house and gardens, or you can easily spend a full day taking in the exhibitions and a leisurely walk around the extended grounds as well as enjoying an Afternoon Tea.

FEEL AT HOME IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

In the city centres of Leeds and York you'll find a great choice of well-known international four-star hotel brands including Radisson, Hilton, Doubletree by Hilton, Hampton by Hilton, Hotel Indigo, Malmaison, Marriott and Novotel. You can experience home comforts whilst having all the attractions of each city. For five-star luxury and exceptional levels of service opt for a night in the Dakota Leeds followed by The Grand, York.



The Grand, York

TOURS AND GUIDES

In Leeds and York there are many local expert tour guides with a diverse range of passions and knowledge of their home cities. Leeds offers architectural tours, queer history tours and heritage beer tours. In York, there is an open top bus tour, including a ghost bus tour, magical and wizardry tours. And both cities offer ghost walks, food and drink and history tours. There are also plenty

of self-guided tours available. In York you can take self-guided quest trails or explore the cat trails, which feature over 35 cat statues - a lucky symbol of the city. In Leeds there is a self-guided Street Art Trail and the Owl Trail, which is the emblem of the city and appears in various guises on many of the buildings in the city centre.

CONNECTIONS... TO LEEDS AND YORK

Perfectly located in the heart of the UK

Flights arrive at Leeds Bradford Airport from over 70 destinations with the international hubs of Dublin and Amsterdam Schipol only an hour away. Manchester, London and Edinburgh are easily accessible by train.

TRAIN TRAVEL FROM EUROPE

	LEEDS	YORK
AMSTERDAM	7 hr 30 min	7 hr 15 min
BRUSSELS	4 hr 15 min	4 hr
PARIS	4 hr 30 min	4 hr 20 min

TRAVEL FROM MANCHESTER AIRPORT

	LEEDS	YORK
ROAD	1 hr 50 min	2 hr 30 min
TRAIN	1 hr 30 min	2 hr

TRAVEL FROM PORT OF LIVERPOOL

	LEEDS	YORK
ROAD	1 hr 45 min	2 hr 25 min
TRAIN	2 hr 21 min	2 hr 40 min

TRAVEL FROM LONDON GATWICK AIRPORT

	LEEDS	YORK
ROAD	4 hr 15 min	4 hr 15 min
TRAIN	3 hr 25 min	3 hr 5 min

* all journey times are indicative